

Date: November 17, 2005

To: Chairman Randolph, and Commissioners Blair, Downey, Huguenin and Remy

From: Mark Krausse, Executive Director

A. PERSONNEL & BUDGET

In November, Enforcement Counsel Natalie Bocanegra left the Commission to join the law firm of Kaufman Downing, LLP, in Los Angeles. Natalie joined the Commission in 1999, working in the Legal Division until earlier this year when she agreed to bring her knowledge of the Act to the Enforcement Division following the departure of three attorneys there. She will be remembered for her good humor, enthusiasm, and dedication. We all wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Senior Commission Counsel Scott Tocher has accepted a position with the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine in San Francisco. He will serve as Interim General Counsel, assisting with compliance in areas ranging from contracting and personnel to Bagley-Keene, the Public Records Act and the PRA. He will also oversee considerable new regulatory promulgation. His dedication, enthusiasm and competence have always been matched by a rapier wit and ability to never take himself too seriously. He has been a good friend to many of us and he will be deeply missed.

The Commission is extremely pleased to welcome Christopher Espinosa as its Executive Fellow for the 2005-06 term. Christopher is a retired California Highway Patrol sergeant who wishes to continue his public service in the policy-making arena. Chris will be assigned legislative, press and regulatory projects.

B. STAFF PROJECTS

Technical Assistance Division Chief Carla Wardlow and I continue to serve on the Secretary of State's Online Disclosure Task Force, which met several times since the Commission's November 3rd meeting. The task force will meet on December 1st, and at least one additional time in December, in the hopes of producing final recommendations to the Secretary before December 31st, 2005.

The Communications Office has been preparing for the meeting of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) in Boston following the Commission's December meeting, and has responded to a steady level of press inquiries.

The Technical Assistance Division's Political Reform Consultants Teri Rindahl and Trish Mayer conducted candidate seminars in Aliso Viejo and Yreka. Trish Mayer also conducted two training seminars for filing offices in Long Beach. Division Chief Carla Wardlow participated in the last lobbyist ethics training for 2005.

The Legal Division's Senior Counsel Scott Tocher served on a panel discussion of campaign finance reform for the Assembly Fellows Program.

C. APPROVAL OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODES/AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to Government Code section 87300 and Commission regulation 18750.1, state and multi-county agencies seeking to adopt or substantively amend a conflict-of-interest code must submit the proposed code to the Commission for review and approval. The Technical Assistance Division has reviewed and, since the last agenda, I have approved the following conflict-of-interest codes:

California State Library
Conservation and Liquidation, State of California Office of
Public Employees Retirement System, State of California
Treasurer's Office, State of California

D. FINDINGS OF PROBABLE CAUSE

There were none.

E. REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE TERMINATION

Commission regulation 18404.1 requires that state-candidate-controlled committees organized for elective state office be terminated pursuant to specified deadlines. Pursuant to the regulation, the following requests for extension of those termination deadlines were submitted to the Executive Director:

Leno 2004 (1251065). A request to re-open the committee was granted until January 1, 2006, in order to process a vendor's refund check.